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Going for Gold

Ellen Catala · Illustrated by Francesca Carabelli



Benchmark Book



Fiction
Jack and the Beanstalk



Nonfiction
The Gold Rush

Level J

Fairy Tale

Expository

Reading Characteristics

- Average sentence length: 10 words
- Interest level is intermediate/middle school
- Abstract concepts and technical words in context common
- Storyline with passage of time introduced
- Requires interpretation of characters and their change over time
- Adult paragraphing (indents, no spacing) occurs in 50% of books
- Supportive text-picture match

Nonfiction Features

- Contents Page
- Captions
- Diagram
- Glossary
- Index

Literacy by Design Benchmark Book: *Going for Gold*

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Jack and the Beanstalk



A boy named Jack lived with his mother. One day their cow quit giving milk, so Jack had to sell her.

On his way to the market, Jack met a man who said, “I have some special beans that will turn into gold. I will give you five of these beans for your cow.”

Jack traded the cow for the five beans.



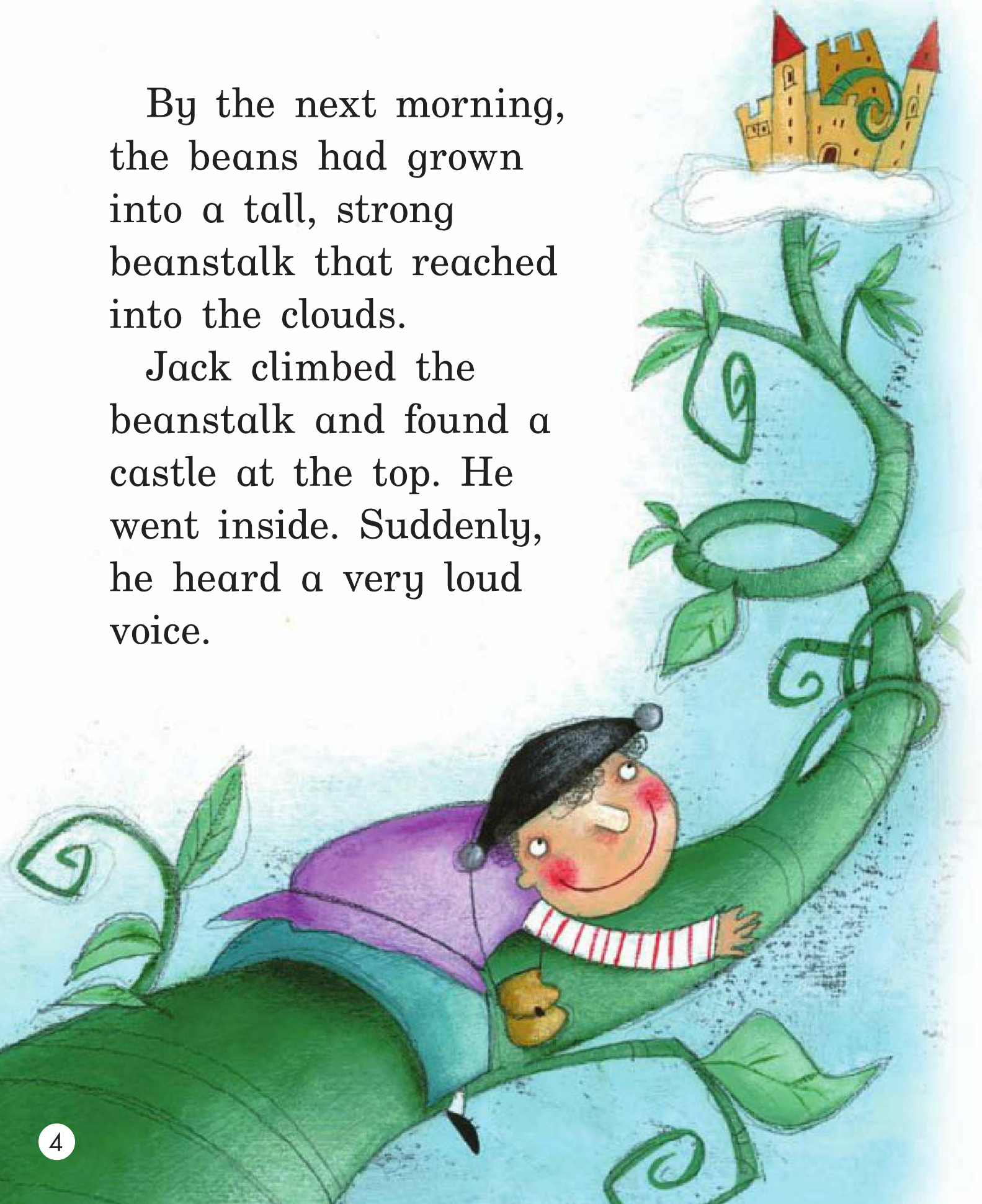
Jack showed the beans to his mother, but she was angry. They needed money, not beans.

“You have been foolish,” she said, and threw the beans out the window.



By the next morning,
the beans had grown
into a tall, strong
beanstalk that reached
into the clouds.

Jack climbed the
beanstalk and found a
castle at the top. He
went inside. Suddenly,
he heard a very loud
voice.

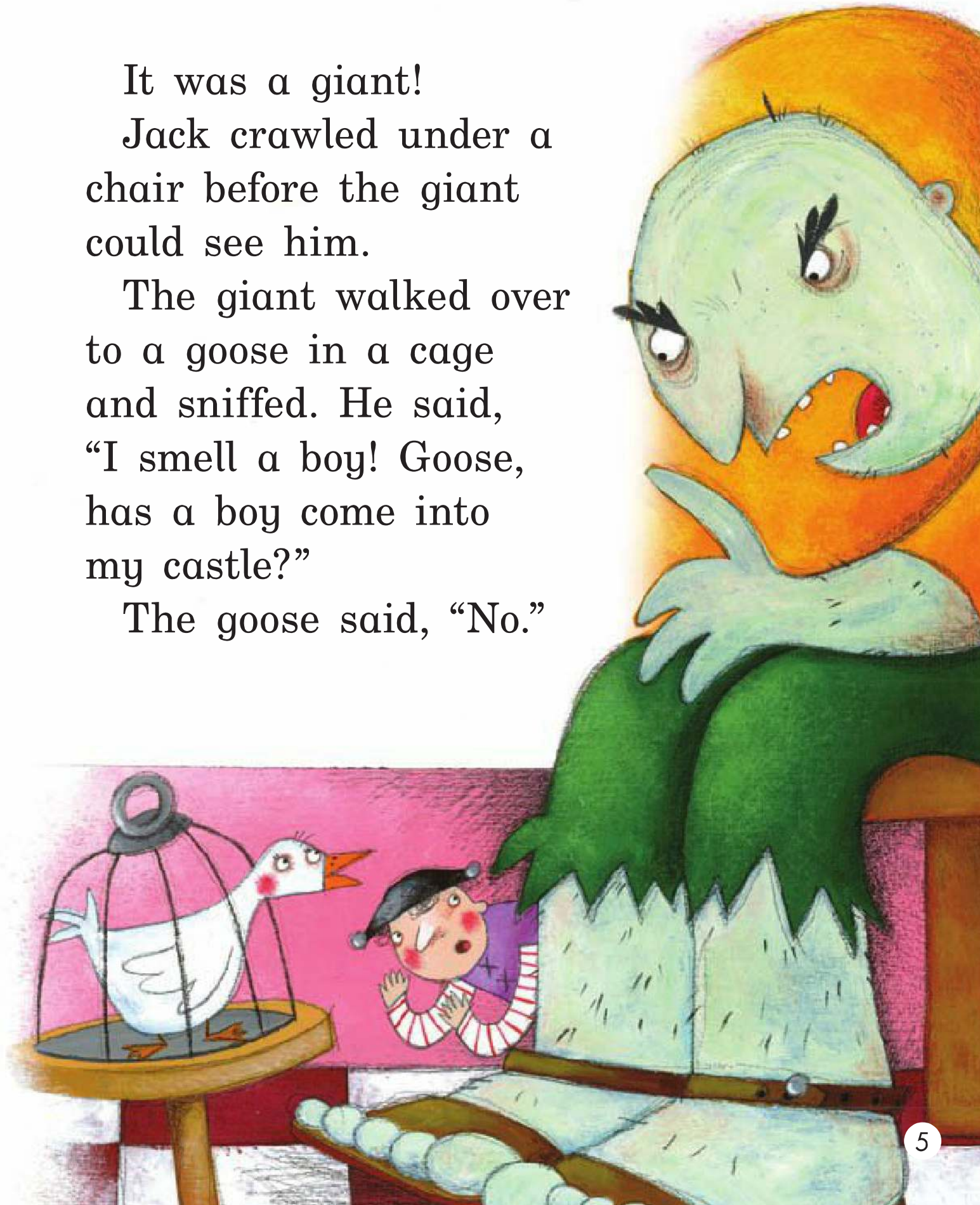


It was a giant!

Jack crawled under a chair before the giant could see him.

The giant walked over to a goose in a cage and sniffed. He said, "I smell a boy! Goose, has a boy come into my castle?"

The goose said, "No."



The giant left, and Jack crawled out from under the giant's chair. He heard a little voice say, "Please, take me with you!"

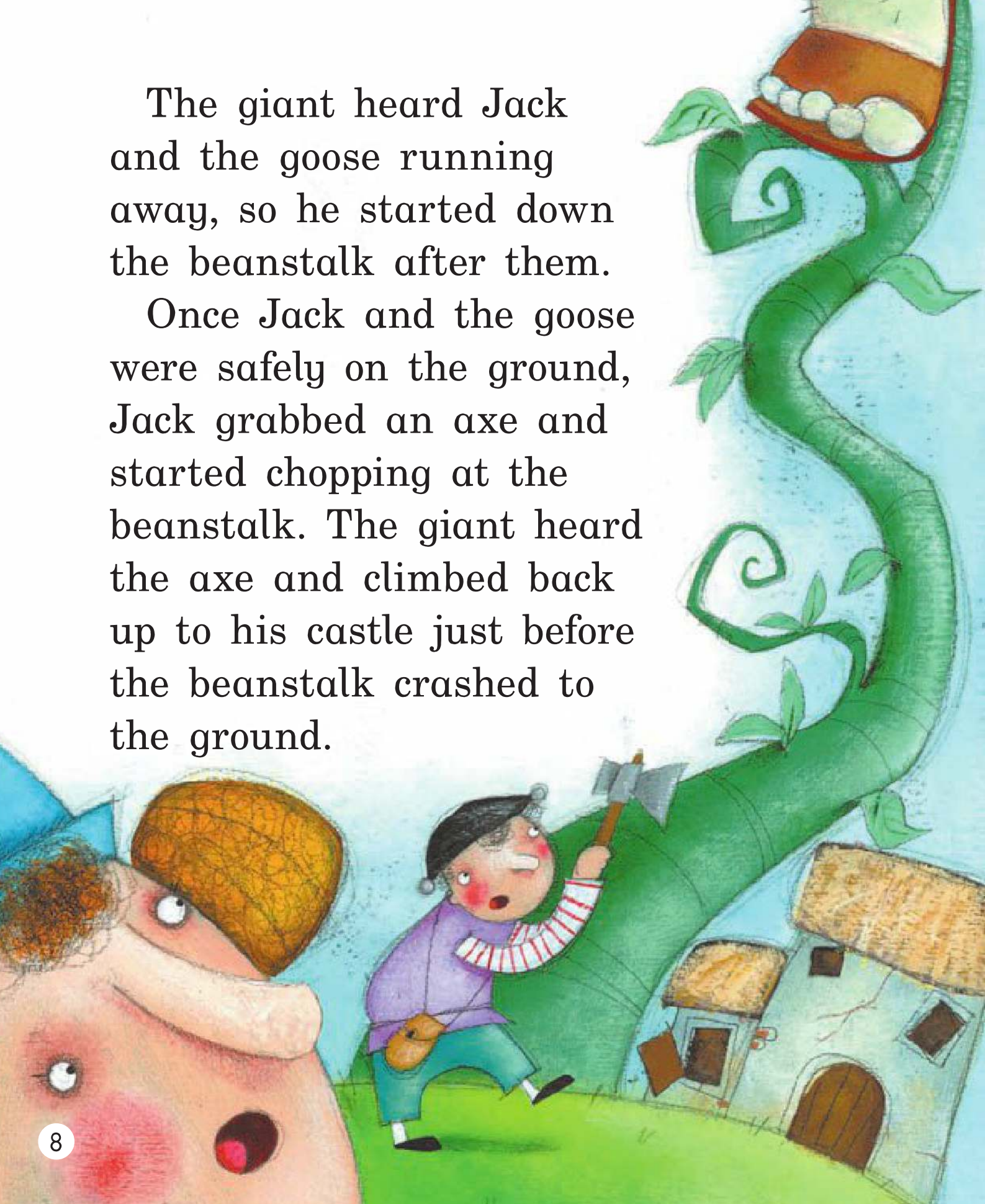




Jack climbed to the top of the table and took the goose out of her cage. He crawled back down and ran with her toward the beanstalk.

The giant heard Jack and the goose running away, so he started down the beanstalk after them.

Once Jack and the goose were safely on the ground, Jack grabbed an axe and started chopping at the beanstalk. The giant heard the axe and climbed back up to his castle just before the beanstalk crashed to the ground.

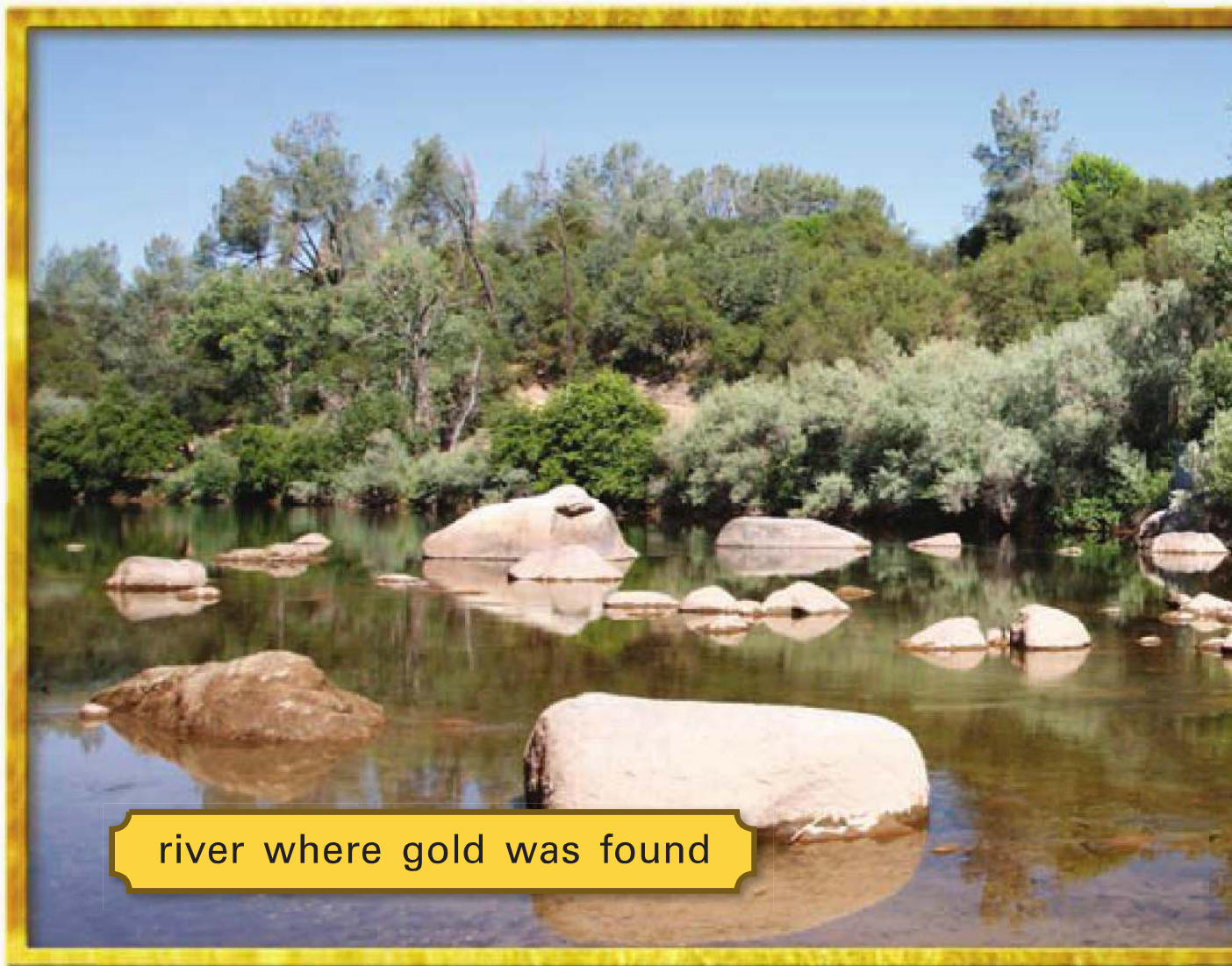




Now the goose lived with Jack and his mother. Every week she laid an egg of pure gold, and they all lived happily ever after.

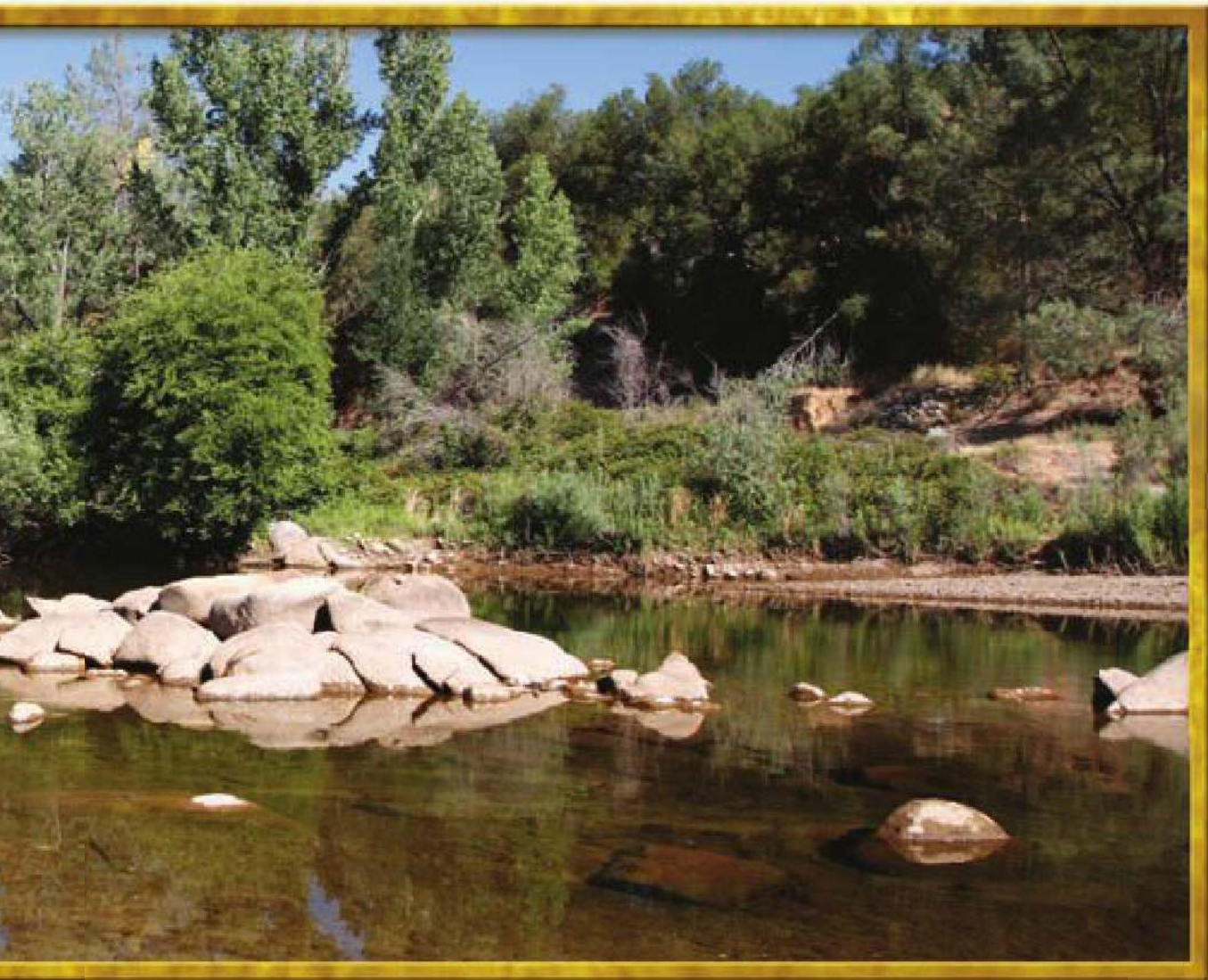
The Gold Rush

The story of Jack and the Beanstalk is a fairy tale, but the story of the California Gold Rush is true.



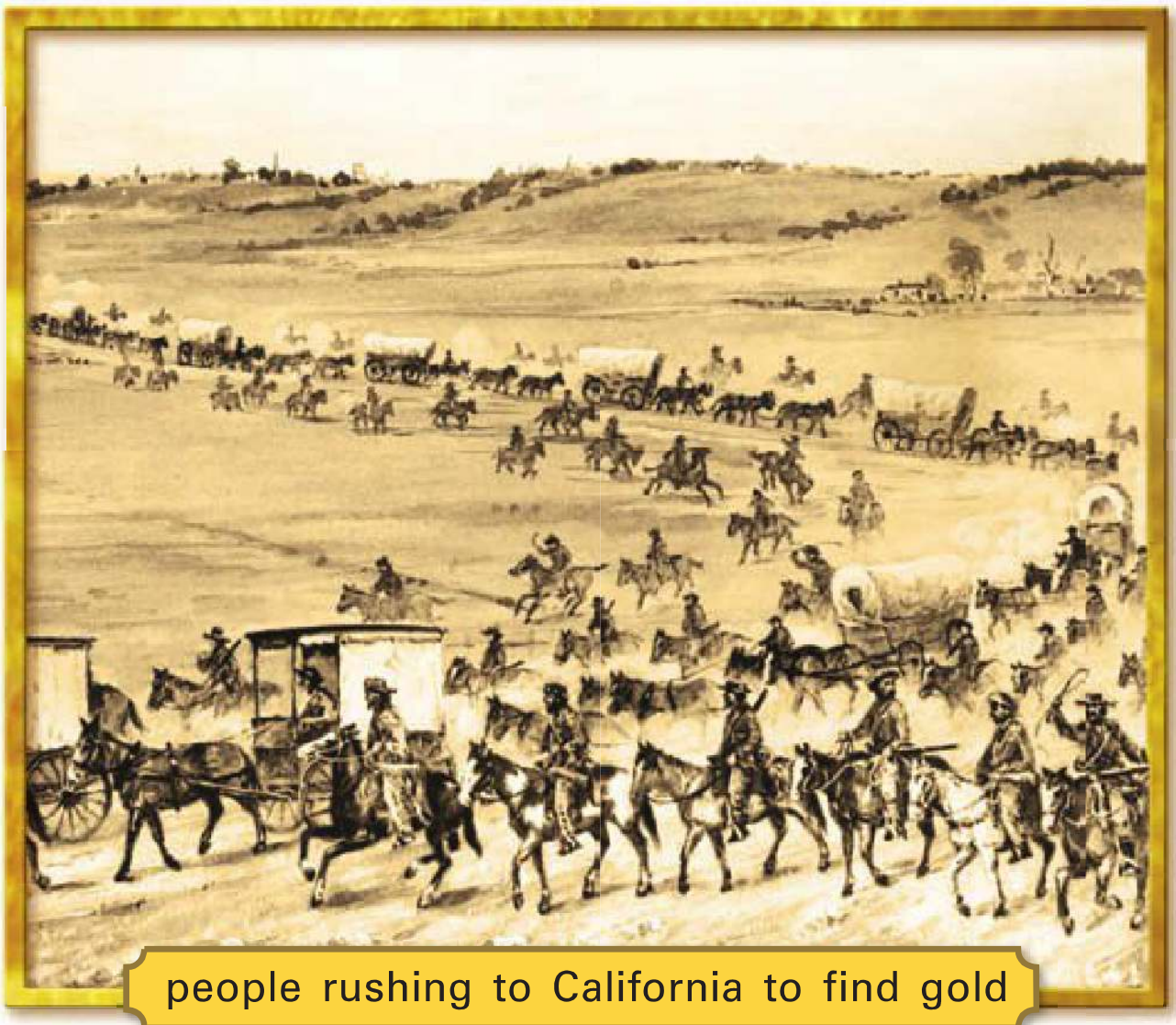
river where gold was found

In 1848 John Sutter found gold in a river in California. He tried to keep it a secret, but people learned about the gold.



Thousands of people rushed to California to look for gold. The Gold Rush had begun!

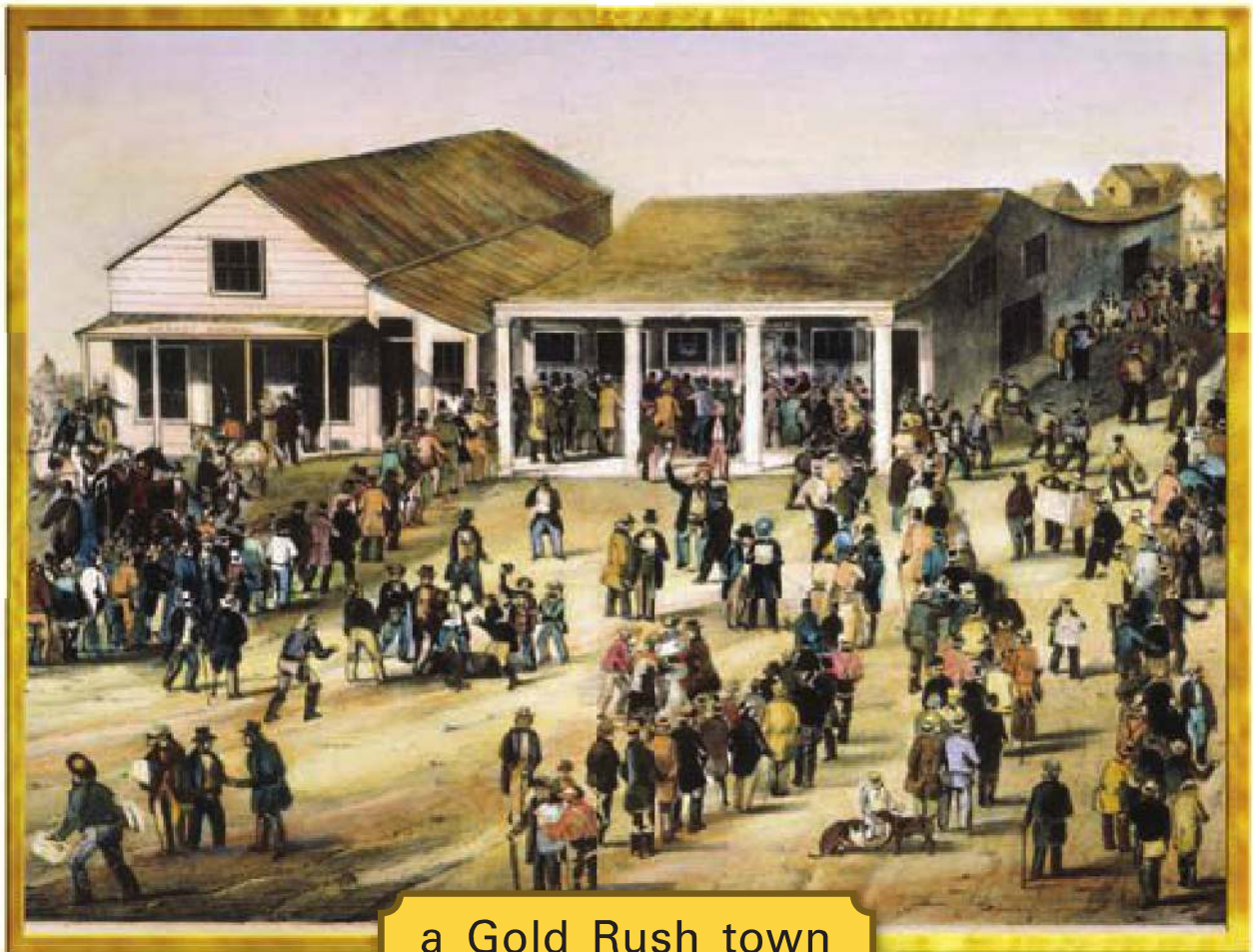
But the journey to California was difficult. Many people died along the way.



people rushing to California to find gold

Many people did find gold. However, they often had to spend all of it just to eat. Food was **expensive** because it was difficult to get.

Even though life was hard, more and more people came. The towns became crowded.



a Gold Rush town

People used pans to get gold from the rivers. After a while, all the gold in the rivers was gone.

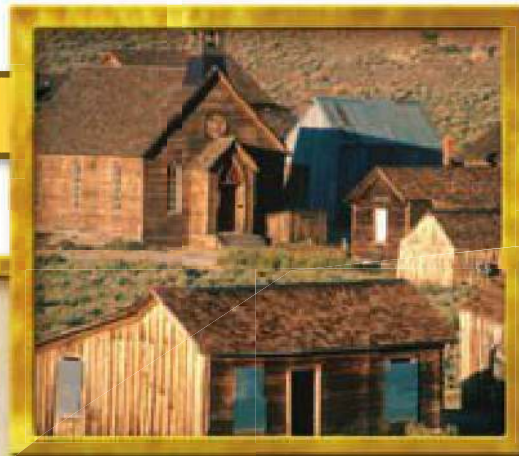
Some gold was left in the ground and mountains, but it was very hard to **mine**.



The Gold Rush ended in 1864. Few people had made their **fortunes**, but some important cities were born, such as San Francisco.

Others towns were **abandoned**. These “ghost towns” hold memories of this amazing time we call the Gold Rush.

ghost town



San Francisco in 1849



Glossary



abandoned left behind or empty

expensive costs a lot of money

fortunes a lot of money and
other riches

mine to take minerals out of
the earth

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